

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend claims 1-16 and add new claims 17-19 as provided below:*

1. (Currently amended) A ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit, comprising: having  
~~[[ - ]]~~ an optical receiving device,  
~~[[ - ]]~~ a plurality of amplifiers which are connected to the receiving device, and  
~~[[ - ]]~~ circuit means for individually activating and deactivating the individual amplifiers,  
~~[[ - ]]~~ ~~in which~~ wherein the amplifiers each differ from one another in at least one parameter, and  
~~[[ - ]]~~ ~~in which~~ wherein only one amplifier is ~~ever~~ activated at a given point in time and the other amplifiers are deactivated.
2. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the amplifiers each have a connection for providing a supply voltage, and the circuit means switch the supply voltage on or off for the purpose of individually activating and deactivating the individual amplifiers ~~for each amplifier~~.
3. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the amplifiers each have an input ~~[[ ( ) ]]~~ connected to the receiving device ~~[[ ( ) ]]~~ and an output, and wherein the circuit means switch the input on or off for the purpose of individually activating and deactivating the individual amplifiers ~~for each amplifier~~.
4. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in which~~ wherein the amplifiers each have an input ~~[[ ( ) ]]~~ connected to the receiving device ~~[[ ( ) ]]~~ and an output, and wherein the circuit means switch the output on or off for the purpose of individually activating and deactivating the individual amplifiers ~~for each amplifier~~.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in~~ which wherein the amplifiers each have a current source, and wherein the circuit means switch the current source on or off for the purpose of individually activating and deactivating the individual amplifiers ~~for each amplifier~~.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in~~ which wherein each amplifier has a plurality of current sources, and all the current sources in an amplifier are switched on or off.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in~~ which wherein the amplifiers are each ~~in the form of~~ comprise a transimpedance amplifier.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in~~ which wherein the amplifiers each ~~have~~ comprise at least two amplifier cells ~~which that~~ are connected in series.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 8, ~~in~~ which wherein at least the first of the amplifier cells, that ~~(which is connected to the receiving device)~~ ~~is in the form of~~ comprises a transimpedance amplifier.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in~~ which wherein the individual amplifiers are connected in parallel with one another.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in~~ which wherein the one parameter in which the individual amplifiers differ is the amplifier's gain.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in which wherein~~ the circuit means ~~have~~ comprise a ~~multiplicity~~ plurality of switches ~~which can be~~ that are set individually.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 12, ~~in which wherein~~ the individual switches ~~are~~ comprise MOS transistors.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in which wherein~~ the circuit means ~~can be~~ is adjusted via at least one control line.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in which wherein~~ the receiving device ~~is~~ comprises a photodiode.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~[[R]]~~ receiver circuit according to Claim 1, ~~in which wherein~~ the individual amplifiers are monolithically integrated in a common chip.

17. (New) An optical receiver, comprising:  
an optical receiving element operable to generate an electrical output signal in response to an optical input signal;  
a plurality of amplifiers having inputs coupled to an output of the optical receiving element, wherein the amplifiers each have a unique gain characteristic associated therewith; and  
a control circuit configured to selectively activate one of the plurality of amplifiers based on a data rate of the optical input signal.

18. (New) The optical receiver of claim 17, wherein the plurality of amplifiers are coupled together in parallel, and wherein the control circuit selectively activates one of the plurality of amplifiers via one or more switches.

19. (New) The optical receiver of claim 18, wherein the one or more switches comprise switches coupled between an input of the amplifiers and the output of the optical receiving element, switches coupled between an output of the amplifiers and an output of the optical receiver, or switches coupled between a power supply and the amplifiers.